No. 51
DEADPOOL
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SHROUDED IN STOLEN IDENTITIES AND CLANDESTINE SECRETS, THE MERC-WITH-A-MOUTH IS A MAN OF MYSTERY. HERO? VILLAIN? SOCIOPATH? DEADPOOL MAKES HIS OWN RULES AND PLAYS BY NOBODY'S GAME. HE IS AN AGENT OF CHAOS CONFINED TO A WORLD OF CONSTRICTING ORDER!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: DEADPOOL

THE PROMISE

PART TWO OF TWO

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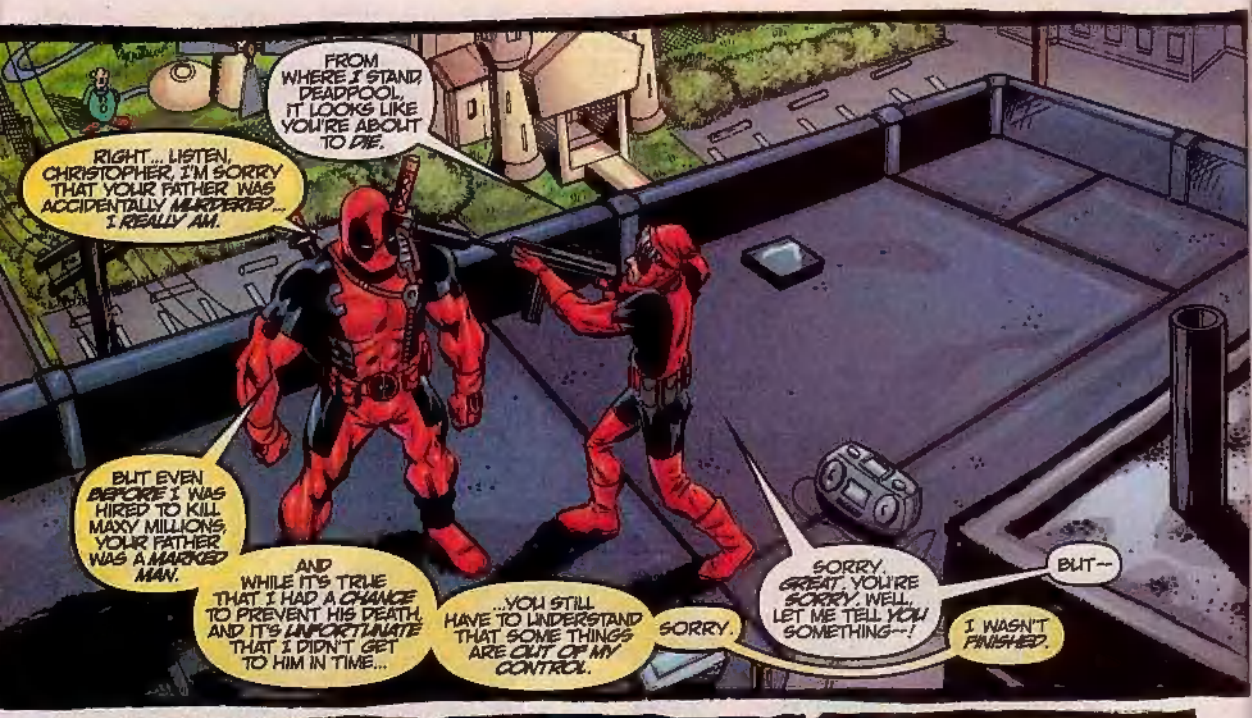

FROM WHERE I STAND, DEADPOOL, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE.
RIGHT... LISTEN, CHRISTOPHER, I'M SORRY THAT YOUR FATHER WAS ACCIDENTALLY MURDERED... I REALLY AM.
BUT EVEN BEFORE I WAS HIRED TO KILL MAXY MILLIONS, YOUR FATHER WAS A MARKED MAN.
AND WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT I HAD A CHANCE TO PREVENT HIS DEATH, AND IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT I DIDN'T GET TO HIM IN TIME...
...YOU STILL HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT SOME THINGS ARE OUT OF MY CONTROL.
SORRY.
SORRY. GREAT. YOU'RE SORRY. WELL, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING--!
BUT--
I WASN'T FINISHED.

NOW I KNOW YOU HAVE THE GUN, WHICH YOU THINK PUTS YOU IN CHARGE. BUT I ALSO HAPPEN TO KNOW YOU WON'T KILL ME FOR THREE REASONS...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!?
SHUSH.

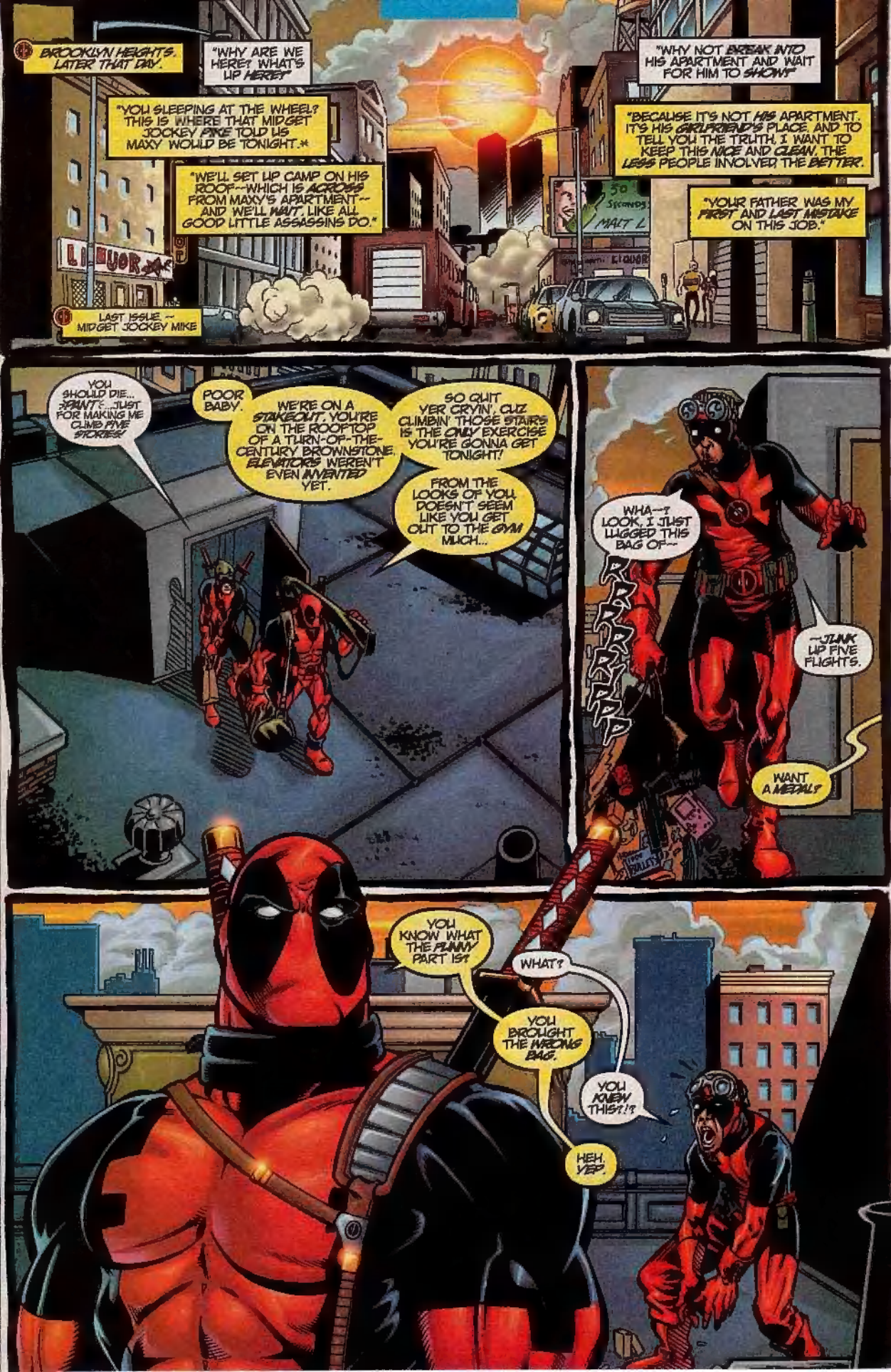
ONE. IF YOU KILL ME NOW, THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL SEE A DIME OF THAT HALF-MILLION DOLLARS ON MAXY'S HEAD. AND JUST BY LOOKING AT YOU, I CAN TELL YOU NEED THE MONEY.
ANY MONEY.

TWO. AS GOOD AS YOU THINK YOU ARE AT SHOOTING THE MINIATURE GOLFERS DOWN THERE, IT'S A LOT HARDER TO KILL A GUY LIKE MAXY, LET ALONE GET AWAY WITH IT.
YOU KILL ME, AND YOU KILL YOUR CHANCES OF AVENGING YOUR FATHER'S DEATH.

AND THREE, SMART GUY, THE GUN IS EMPTY.

WHAT IF IT *IS* LOADED? WHAT IF I LOADED ONE *EXTRA BULLET* IN BEFORE WE LEFT?
WHAT IF YOU JUST *COUNTED* WRONG? WHAT IF I'M JUST MORE *DANGEROUS* THAN YOU THINK? WHAT IF---?
WHAT IF. WHAT IF. WHAT IF! GOD, KID, YOU SOUND LIKE A BROKEN RECORD.
IF THERE *IS* A BULLET IN THERE, THEN I GUESS WE WON'T BE GOING TO THE MERCENARY/SIDEKICK SQUARE-DANCE. *BIG DEAL.*
SO YOU GOT ME *ALL* FIGURED OUT, huh, DEADPOOL?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I DOUBT YOU'VE GOT THE *GUTS* TO PULL THE TRIGGER.
YOU *"DOUBT"?*
CLICK
YOU SEE, MR. WADE WILSON, YOU DON'T KNOW ME AT ALL.
I'M OUTTA HERE.
HM. GUESS I DON'T...

INTERLUDE.
Barrucci LUXURY LIVING
HI, I'M SARAH MOREELS FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT...HERE TO SEE EITHER MR. OR MRS. MERCY?
SI, BENE.
'ALLO? SI. THIS IS A MR. PROPELS, FROMA DOWNSTAIRS. A NICE LADY. SHE'S A HERE TO SEE YOU PARENTS.
IT'S A MISS EEELS. FROMA DA SCHOOL.
WHO?
SHE'S A FROMA DA SCHOOL.
>SIGH< WHATEVER. JUST GET RID OF HER.
IT'S A TOO LATE. SHE'S ON HER WAY UP.
MARY! MISS MOREELS IS HERE FROM THE SCHOOL!
FIGURES. HAD TO HAPPEN EVENTUALLY.
THAT IDIOT DOORMAN LET HER IN AND SHE'S ON HER WAY UP?
THERE GOES HIS BONUS.
GRACE, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE WE WENT TO SCHOOL?
A DAY. A WEEK. TWO. I DON'T KNOW. WHATEVER IT IS, WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HER PERMANENTLY.
YOU KNOW SHE'S GONNA KILL US.
"GRACE, THAT'S THE FUNNIEST THING YOU'VE SAID ALL DAY."

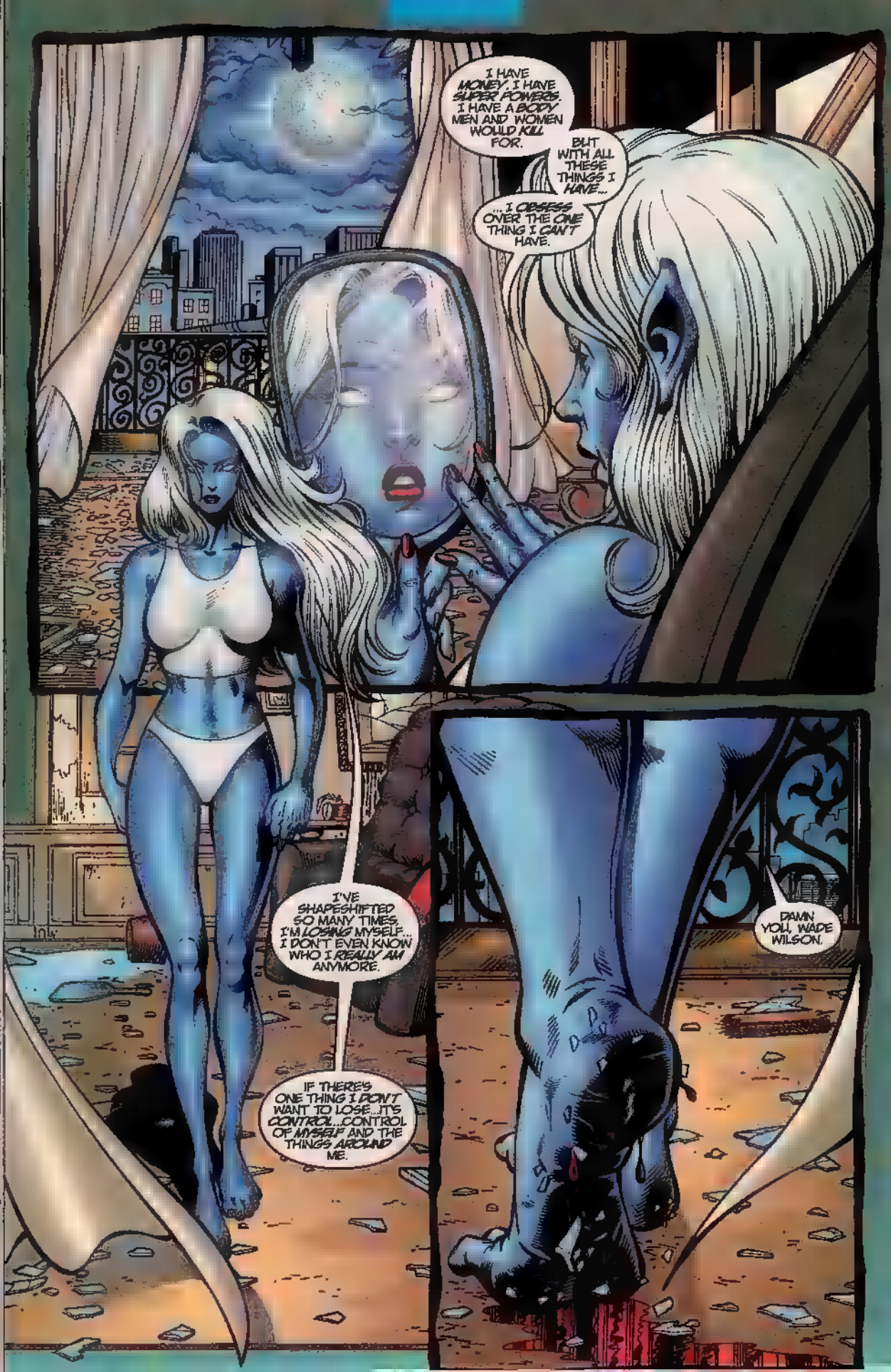

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS, LATER THAT DAY.
"WHY ARE WE HERE? WHAT'S UP HERE?"
"YOU SLEEPING AT THE WHEEL? THIS IS WHERE THAT MIDGET JOCKEY FAKE TOLD US MAXY WOULD BE TONIGHT.*"
"WE'LL SET UP CAMP ON HIS ROOF--WHICH IS ACROSS FROM MAXY'S APARTMENT--AND WE'LL WAIT, LIKE ALL GOOD LITTLE ASSASSINS DO."
"WHY NOT BREAK INTO HIS APARTMENT AND WAIT FOR HIM TO SHOW?"
"BECAUSE IT'S NOT HIS APARTMENT. IT'S HIS GIRLFRIEND'S PLACE, AND TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I WANT TO KEEP THIS NICE AND CLEAN, THE LESS PEOPLE INVOLVED THE BETTER."
"YOUR FATHER WAS MY FIRST AND LAST MISTAKE ON THIS JOB."
LIQUOR
50 Seconds
MALT L
LIQUOR
LAST ISSUE -- MIDGET JOCKEY MIKE
YOU SHOULD DIE... SLOWLY... JUST FOR MAKING ME CLIMB FIVE STORIES!
POOR BABY.
WE'RE ON A STAKEOUT. YOU'RE ON THE ROOFTOP OF A TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY BROWNSTONE. ELEVATORS WEREN'T EVEN INVENTED YET.
SO QUIT YER CRYIN', CUZ CLIMBIN' THOSE STAIRS IS THE ONLY EXERCISE YOU'RE GONNA GET TONIGHT!
FROM THE LOOKS OF YOU, DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU GET OUT TO THE GYM MUCH...
WHA--? LOOK, I JUST LUGGED THIS BAG OF--
RRRRIPP
--JUNK UP FIVE FLIGHTS.
WANT A MEDAL?
YOU KNOW WHAT THE FUNNY PART IS?
WHAT?
YOU BROUGHT THE WRONG BAG.
YOU KNEW THIS?!?
HEH, YEP.

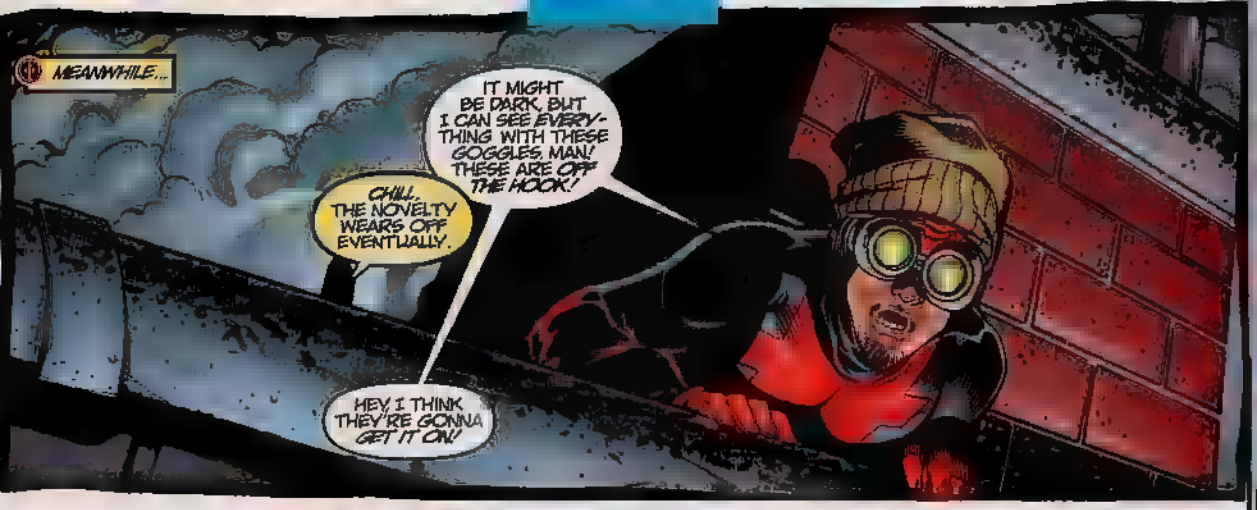
OKAY, SO NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
WE SIT. WE WAIT.
WAIT FOR WHAT? WHY DON'T WE KILL HIM RIGHT NOW?
IT'S A PERFECT TIME FOR A MURDER!
CAN'T WE AT LEAST DISCUSS THIS?
NO. WE WAIT.
WE DON'T "DISCUSS" ANYTHING. YOU DO AS I SAY, AND NOTHING ELSE. THIS IS MY STAKEOUT. AND THIS IS MY KILL.
WHEN I TELL YOU IT'S OKAY TO SHOOT HIM, THEN IT'S OKAY.
AND NOT A SECOND BEFORE.
GOT IT?
SIGHH: YOU MUST BE SO IN LOVE WITH YOURSELF. THIS SITTING AND WAITING CRAP IS GOING TO KILL ME.
"I'M A MAN OF ACTION... IF YOU WON'T DO IT..."

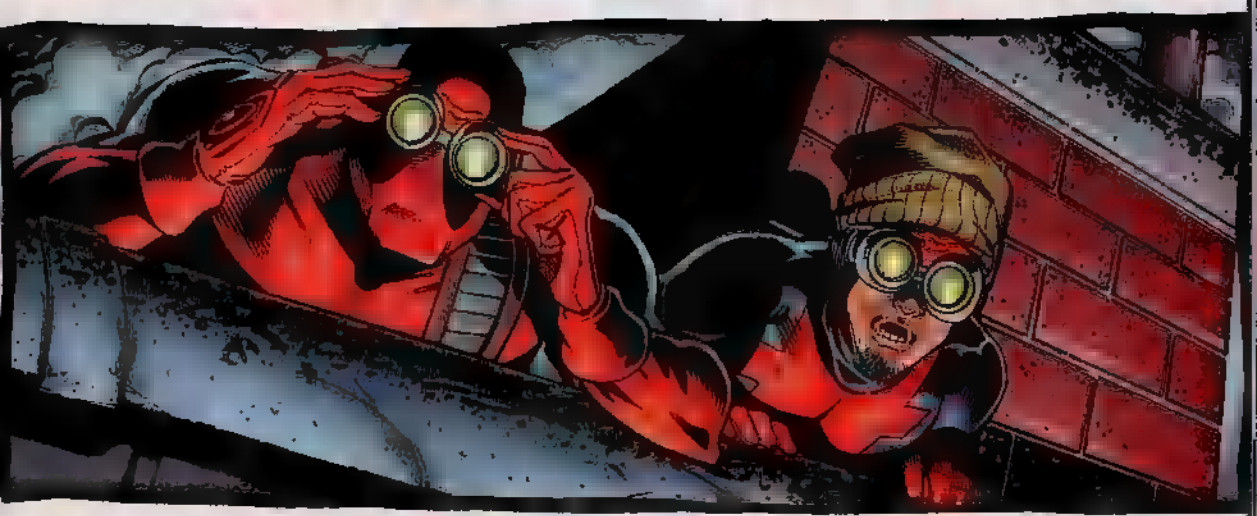
...THEN I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
CLICK
CHRIS, GIVE ME BACK THAT GUN THIS INSTANT.
FINE, FINE. TAKE IT.
AND GET BACK INTO THE SHADOWS.
LIKE I TOLD YOU BEFORE, WE WAIT TILL HE'S ALONE.
WE DO THIS RIGHT. WE TAKE OUR TIME, AND WE DON'T INVOLVE OTHER PEOPLE.
WE'RE ONLY GETTING PAID TO KILL MAX, REMEMBER? WE DON'T KILL THE GIRLFRIEND... OR HER LOVER.
HER LOVER-- WHAT?
HOW ABOUT I JUST WING HIM?
SIT DOWN, YOU MORON. THIS ISN'T THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS FOR SIDEKICKS.

LATER THAT EVENING.
HOW CAN YOU STILL BE HUNGRY? YOU JUST ATE TWO BAGS OF DORITOS®, TWO DIRTY WATER DOGS AND THREE YOOHOOS.
GOTTA BULK UP. SIDEKICK'S GOTTA TAKE A PUNCH FOR THE TEAM SOMETIMES, RIGHT?
I'LL GIVE YOU A PUNCH TO YOUR HEAD.
AND LISTEN. IF YOU DON'T QUIT EATING THAT STUFF, YOU'LL TURN INTO THE SIDEKICK WHO'S GOTTA SIT ON THE SIDELINES...
...CUZ YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PULL YOURSELF UP A ROPE, LET ALONE A FIVE-STORY BUILDING.
Hmmm. KNOW WHAT? NOW YOU GOT ME HUNGRY. WHY NOT MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL AND GET US A COUPLE DOZEN WHITE CASTLE® CHEESEBURGERS.
YEAHHH! A RUN FOR THE BORDER!
THAT'S TACO BELL®.
I KNEW THAT.
UGHHH! THIS STUFF IS GOING TO BE MURDER ON THE WAY OUT.
ANYTHING ELSE WHILE I'M OUT?
YEAH...
...TOILET PAPER.

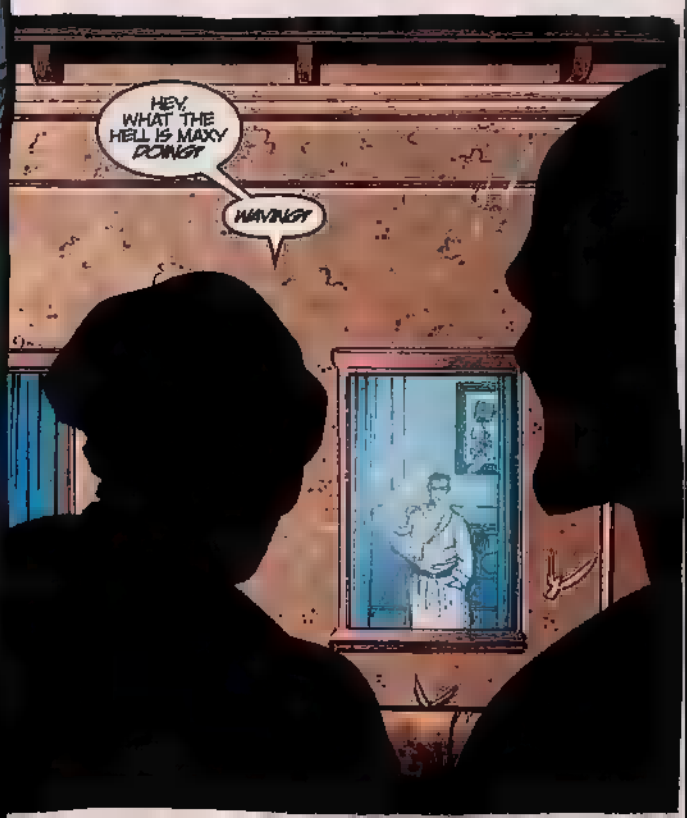
COPYCAT'S APARTMENT.
I'M A PRETTY REASONABLE WOMAN...
... I'M SMART. I'M SEXY. I'M GIVING.
I CAN BE ANYONE THAT DEADPOOL WANTS ME TO BE, AND I HAVE THE POWER TO DO SO.
SO, ANSWER THIS SIMPLE LITTLE QUESTION...
WHY--
--DOESN'T--
--HE CALL ME?!?

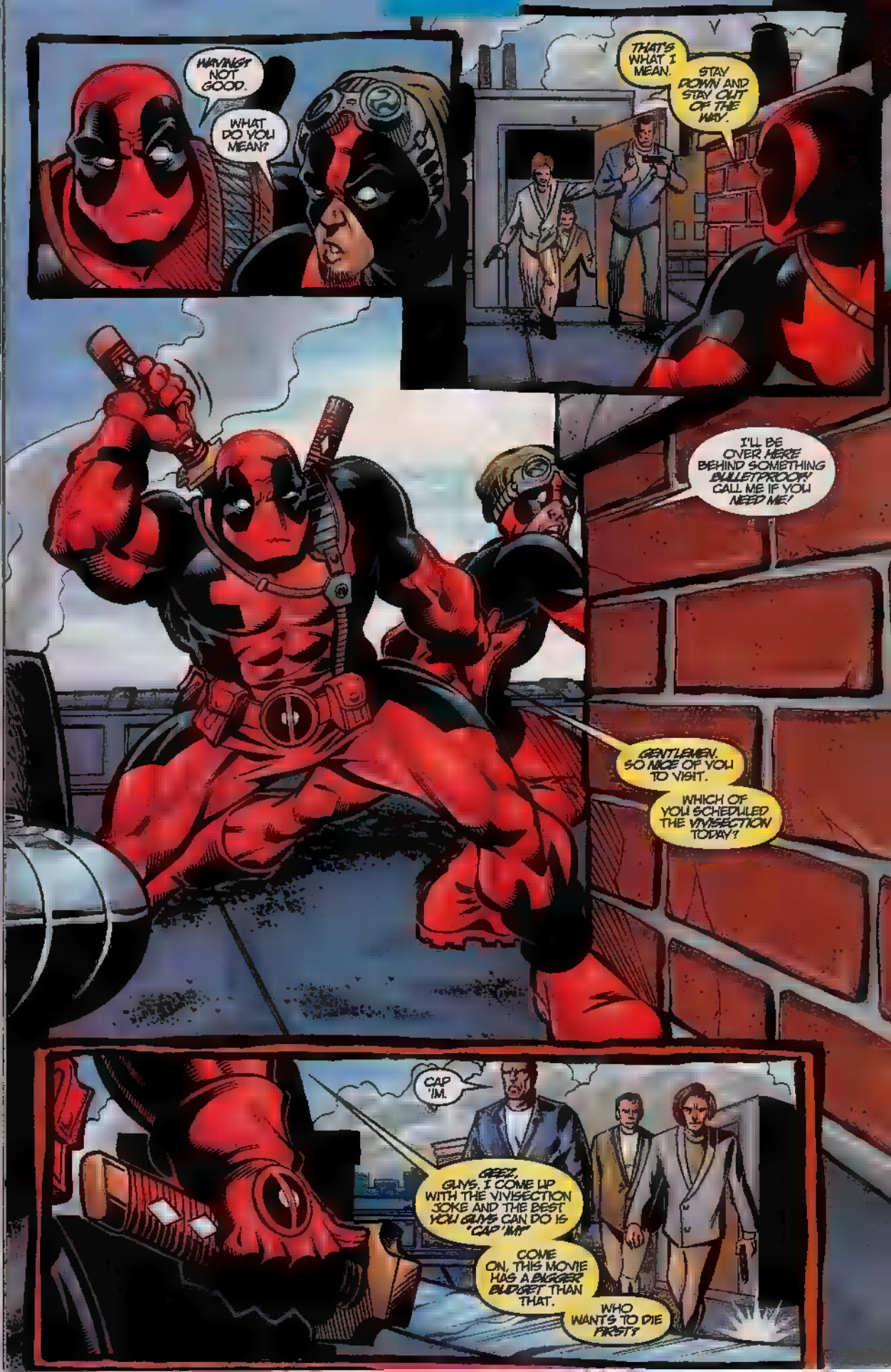

I HAVE MONEY. I HAVE SUPER POWERS. I HAVE A BODY MEN AND WOMEN WOULD KILL FOR.
BUT WITH ALL THESE THINGS I HAVE...
...I OBSESS OVER THE ONE THING I CAN'T HAVE.
I'VE SHAPESHIFTED SO MANY TIMES, I'M LOSING MYSELF... I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO I REALLY AM ANYMORE.
IF THERE'S ONE THING I DON'T WANT TO LOSE...IT'S CONTROL...CONTROL OF MYSELF AND THE THINGS AROUND ME.
DAMN YOU, WADE WILSON.


MEANWHILE...
IT MIGHT BE DARK, BUT I CAN SEE EVERYTHING WITH THESE GOGGLES, MAN! THESE ARE OFF THE HOOK!
CHILL. THE NOVELTY WEARS OFF EVENTUALLY.
HEY, I THINK THEY'RE GONNA GET IT ON!



THREE HOURS LATER. DAWN.
THE SECOND GIRL IS FINALLY LEAVING. BOY, IS SHE WALKING FUNNY.
CLEAR AWAY.
HEY, THINK I CAN TAKE A SHOT OR THREE?
NOT IN THIS LIFETIME.
WHY NOT?

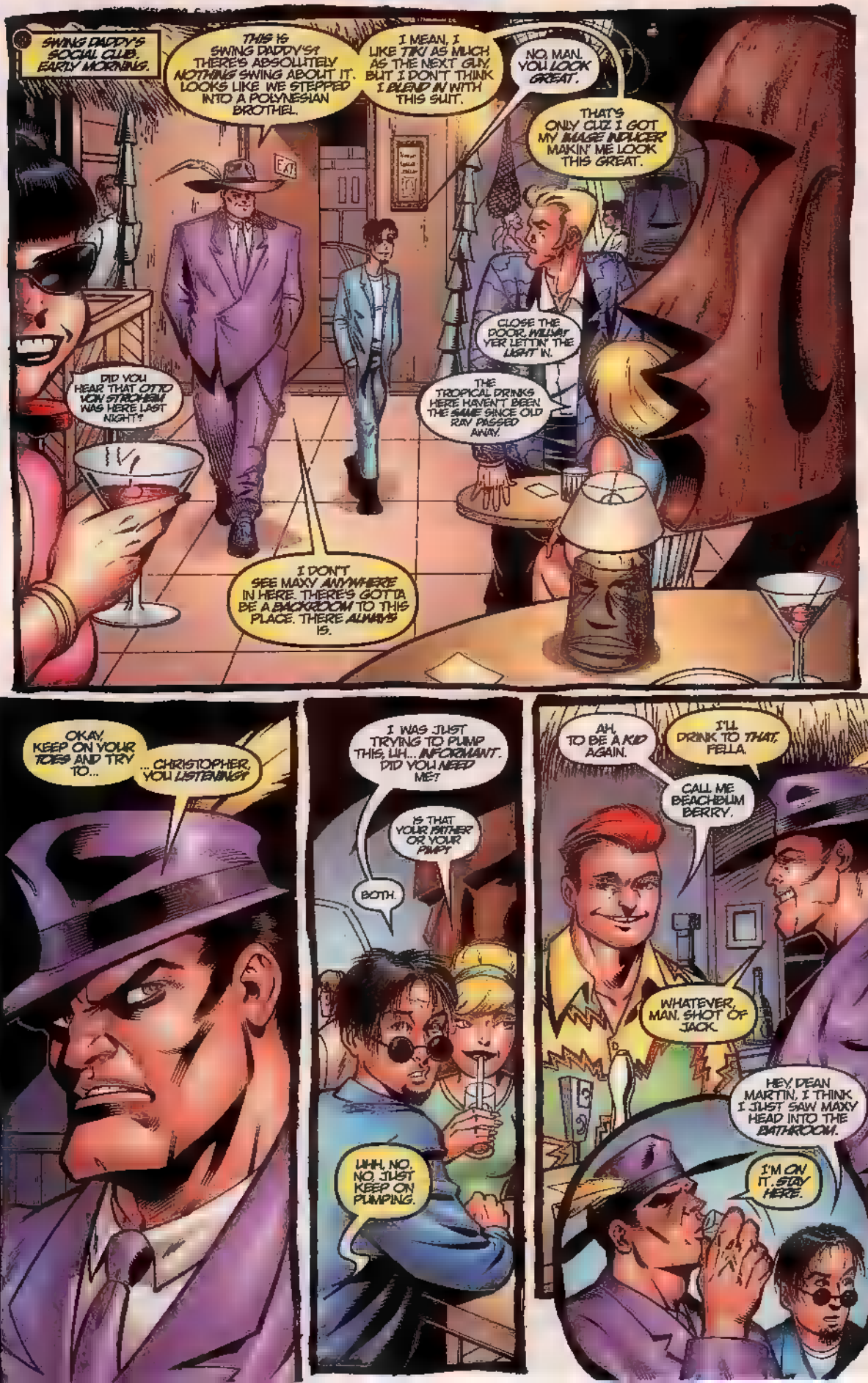

HEY, WHAT THE HELL IS MAXY DOING?
HAVING?


HAVING'S NOT GOOD.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN.
STAY DOWN AND STAY OUT OF THE WAY.
I'LL BE OVER HERE BEHIND SOMETHING BULLETPROOF! CALL ME IF YOU NEED ME!
GENTLEMEN. SO NICE OF YOU TO VISIT.
WHICH OF YOU SCHEDULED THE VIVISECTION TODAY?
CAP 'IM.
GEEZ, GUYS, I COME UP WITH THE VIVISECTION JOKE AND THE BEST YOU GUYS CAN DO IS "CAP 'IM"
COME ON, THIS MOVIE HAS A BIGGER BUDGET THAN THAT.
WHO WANT'S TO DIE FIRST?

WHAT, NO CLEVER COMEBACKS, BOYS?
OH, AND WATCH YOUR STEP. WE'VE BEEN HERE ALL NIGHT EATING WHITE CASTLE® BURGERS.
SSLLLIPPPPPPP
BLAM
WHOA--
BLAM
MAN... WISH I COULD TAKE MORE THAN COINCIDENTAL CREDIT FOR THAT ONE.
THAT'S SO GROSS THAT IT'S COOL! CONSIDER THAT A 'KID DEADPOOL' SPECIAL!
OKAY, MR. I'M-STILL-ALIVE GUY, LET'S CUT PAST THE OBLIGATORY "I CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING BECAUSE HE'LL KILL ME" DIALOGUE.
BUT... BUT...HE'LL KILL ME...
EITHER WE CUT PAST IT, OR I CUT THROUGH YOU. TALK OR DIE.

CLOCK'S TICKING, AND I'M LOOKING FOR YOUR "FINAL ANSWER!"
CLICK
SW-SW-SWING DADDY'S.
NAH. NOT ON A SCHOOL NIGHT.
IT'S A NIGHT-CLUB.
RIGHT. I KNEW THAT. NEAR THE BATTERY TUNNEL?
Y-Y-YEAH, THAT'S IT.
WHO GOES TO A NIGHT-CLUB IN THE MORNING?
HOW ABOUT, THEY HAVEN'T LEFT FROM THE NIGHT BEFORE? IT'S CALLED AN AFTER-HOURS JOINT.
I KNEW THAT.
WELL, SOMETIMES YOU JUST SQUEEZE ONE IN AS A GOOF.
NO... PLEASE...
HEY, NOT TO CHALLENGE YOUR SKILLS AS A RUTHLESS KILLER...
... BUT YOU LEFT THAT GUY'S HANDS FREE. HE COULD ESCAPE AND ALERT MAXY, OR EVEN HOKSE!
Hmm. MAKES SENSE. AFTER ALL, HE WAS COMING UP TO KILL US. SPEAKING OF WHICH...
... REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU EARLIER?
ABOUT ONLY KILLING THE ONES WE GET PAID FOR?
YEAH.

RESUME INTERLUDE.
SO WILL YOUR MOTHER, FATHER... OR SOME OTHER LEGAL GUARDIAN BE BACK SOON?
NO... THEY'RE GOING TO BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
WELL, I'LL JUST HAUT HERE UNTIL SOMEONE COMES HOME, THEN.
DO WHAT YOU MUST.
OH, EXCUSE ME, MISS MOREELS, BUT I THINK I HAVE TO GET SOMETHING FROM MY BEDROOM.
COULDN'T SHE BE LIKE EVERY OTHER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR AND JUST NOT GIVE A CRAP?
CLICK
GRACE? CAN YOU HEAR ME, SIS?
GOOD. KEEP HER BUSY. I'LL BE RIGHT OUT.
BINGO! WE NEED TO FINISH THIS. IT'S GOT TO BE QUICK AND QUIET.
SCARLET
SO, I HEAR YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT SPORTS.
MY SISTER MORE THAN ME.


SWING DADDY'S SOCIAL CLUB. EARLY MORNING.
THIS IS SWING DADDY'S? THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING SWING ABOUT IT. LOOKS LIKE WE STEPPED INTO A POLYNESIAN BROTHEL.
I MEAN, I LIKE TIKI AS MUCH AS THE NEXT GUY, BUT I DON'T THINK I BLEND IN WITH THIS SUIT.
NO, MAN. YOU LOOK GREAT.
THAT'S ONLY CUZ I GOT MY IMAGE INDUCER MAKIN' ME LOOK THIS GREAT.
EXIT
CLOSE THE DOOR, WILLYA! YER LETTIN' THE LIGHT IN.
DID YOU HEAR THAT OTTO VON STROHEIM WAS HERE LAST NIGHT?
THE TROPICAL DRINKS HERE HAVEN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE OLD RAY PASSED AWAY.
I DON'T SEE MAXY ANYWHERE IN HERE. THERE'S GOTTA BE A BACKROOM TO THIS PLACE. THERE ALWAYS IS.
OKAY, KEEP ON YOUR TOES AND TRY TO...
... CHRISTOPHER, YOU LISTENING?
I WAS JUST TRYING TO PUMP THIS, UH... INFORMANT. DID YOU NEED ME?
IS THAT YOUR FATHER OR YOUR PIMP?
BOTH.
UHH, NO. NO, JUST KEEP ON PUMPING.
AH, TO BE A KID AGAIN.
I'LL DRINK TO THAT, FELLA.
CALL ME BEACHBUM BERRY.
WHATEVER, MAN. SHOT OF JACK.
HEY, DEAN MARTIN, I THINK I JUST SAW MAXY HEAD INTO THE BATHROOM.
I'M ON IT. STAY HERE.

HEY, FREAK. DO I KNOW YOU?
NO. BUT I KNOW YOU. SPENT SOME TIME WATCHING YOU LAST NIGHT FROM A ROOFTOP.
FIGURES HE'D RUN BEFORE I GOT MY ZIPPER BACK UP.
GET 'IM, KID!
C'MON, MAXY! YOU PUNCH LIKE A GIRL!
SHOW 'IM WHERE YOU LIVE!
MEN
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU FREAKS!
DEADPOOL! I GOT 'IM!
GET BACK. 'FRAID NOT, KID. I GOT YOU.
JUST LET HIM GO.
WE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE, MISTER. JUST WALK OUT AND I PROMISE WE WON'T FOLLOW YOU.
FOLLOW ME AND YOU'RE DEAD.

SWING DADDY'S
"CHRIS, WHY'D YOU LET HIM GET AWAY?!"
"I HAVE A PLAN."
"YOU HAVE A PLAN? THIS I GOTTA HEAR."
I FOUND THIS LITTLE POOHICKEY IN A PILE OF JUNK AT THE WAREHOUSE.
ANDY
AND I SLIPPED A THINGAMAJIG IN HIS JACKET WHILE WE WERE FIGHTING. BUT I AIN'T TOO SURE WHAT IT DOES.
HEH. PRESS THE BIG BUTTON TO FIND OUT.
KLIK
BWWAAMM
MOTHER#*@&!!!
IT MAKES THINGS GO BOOM!
YEAH. BOOM.

DEADPOOL'S WAREHOUSE IN RED HOOK, BROOKLYN.
WELL, KID, TODAY'S YOUR EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY, AND YOU MANAGED TO NOT GET KILLED.
18
AWWW. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO.
NO, I REALLY DID. I FIGURED IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GET YOU TO LEAVE.
DON'T WORRY, D.P. I WASN'T GONNA STICK AROUND. DON'T WANT TO END UP THE NEXT "UNLUCKY BLOKY".
I JUST WANT TO GET ON WITH MY LIFE. NOT YOURS.
WELL, BLOW OUT THE CANDLES, THEN, CUZ I ALREADY MADE YOUR WISH.
HERE. INSIDE IS YOUR NEW LIFE. THERE'S A ONE-WAY TICKET TO EUROPE. FULLY-PAID TUITION TO OXFORD. PICK YOUR OWN MAJOR. ALL THE PAPERWORK FOR A NEW IDENTITY, AND A NICE CASH BONUS, TO BOOT.
CHRISTOPHER
REALLY? OUT OF YOUR SHARE OF THE MONEY?
YUP. BUT MINUS THE WHITE CASTLES. STILL, IT'S A TON OF CASH FOR A KID YOUR AGE.
WOW. WELL, I GUESS THIS IS IT, THEN.
I APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME, DEADPOOL. IN FOUR DAYS, YOU COMPLETELY CHANGED MY LIFE.
BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT... I DON'T KNOW IF I'M READY TO LET GO OF THE FACT THAT YOU WERE... WELL... PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MY FATHER'S MURDER.
GET OVER IT.
I UNDERSTAND NOT LETTING GO OF PAIN AND ANGER. IN MORE WAYS THAN YOU COULD IMAGINE.
A KISS GOOD-BYE, PERHAPS?
YOU KNOW WHERE MY BUTT IS.
MAN, YOU ARE FOUL!
SEE YA, KID. GOOD LUCK.

WHATTA GUY. I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALL THEM SUPER HEROES.
OXFORD COULD NEVER AFFORD APEX TECH, MUCH LESS THE IVY LEAGUE.
STILL... IF YOU WERE A LITTLE MORE EFFICIENT, MR. SUPER HERO, MY FATHER MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE.
SORRY...
...BOOM!
KLIK

"BOOM."
SMARTGUY.
BEEEEEEEEPPPP
NEXT ISSUE: DO KILLER CATHOLIC SCHOOL GIRLS TURN YOU ON? THEN GET READY FOR THE
MERCY SISTERS!
BOOM